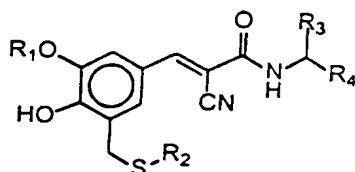


WE CLAIM:

1. A compound of the general formula:



wherein

R₁ is H or C1 to C3 alkyl;

R₂ is aryl or -(CH₂)_n- aryl and n is 1 to 4;

R₃ is H or CH₃; and

R₄ is substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, pyridyl, thiophene, furan, indole, pyrrole, thiazole or imidazole.

2. A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein

R₁ is H, methyl or ethyl;

R₂ is phenyl, benzyl, -(CH₂)₂-phenyl, -(CH₂)₃-phenyl or 2-thiobenzothiazole;

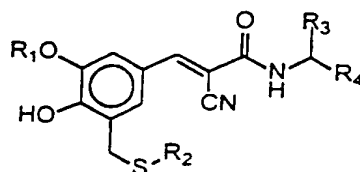
R₃ is H; and

R₄ is phenyl.

3. A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(4'-hydroxy-3'-methoxy-5'-methylene thiobenzyl phenyl) acrylamide.

4. A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3'-ethoxy-4'-hydroxy-5'-methylene thiophenyl phenyl) acrylamide.
- 5 5. A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-methylene (2'-thiobenzothiazole) phenyl) acrylamide.
6. A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-methylene thiobenzyl phenyl) acrylamide.
- 10 7. A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-methylene thiophenyl phenyl) acrylamide.
- 15 8. A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(4'-hydroxy-3'-methoxy-5'-(methylene thioethyl phenyl) phenyl) acrylamide.
9. A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(4'-hydroxy-3'-methoxy-5'-(methylene thiopropyl phenyl) phenyl) acrylamide.
- 20 10. A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-(methylene thioethyl phenyl) phenyl) acrylamide.
- 25 11. A compound in accordance with claim 1 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-(methylene thiopropyl phenyl) phenyl) acrylamide.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of the formula:



- wherein
 R_1 is H or C1 to C3 alkyl;
 R_2 is aryl or $-(CH_2)_n-$ aryl and n is 1 to 4;
 R_3 is H or CH_3 ; and
 R_4 is substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, pyridyl, thiophene, furan,
 indole, pyrrole, thiazole or imidazole
 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 12 comprising a compound of formula I, wherein

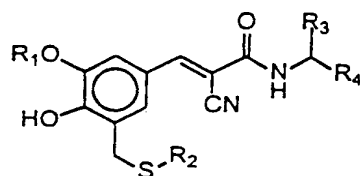
- R_1 is H, methyl or ethyl;
 R_2 is phenyl, benzyl, $-(CH_2)_2$ -phenyl, $-(CH_2)_3$ -phenyl or 2-thiobenzothiazole;
 R_3 is H; and
 R_4 is phenyl.

14. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 12 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(4'-hydroxy-3'-methoxy-5'-methylene thiobenzyl phenyl) acrylamide.

15. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 12 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3'-ethoxy-4'-hydroxy-5'-methylene thiophenyl phenyl) acrylamide.
- 5 16. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 12 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-methylene (2'-thiobenzothiazole) phenyl) acrylamide
- 10 17. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 12 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-methylene thiobenzyl phenyl) acrylamide.
- 15 18. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 12 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-methylene thiophenyl phenyl) acrylamide.
- 20 19. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 12 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(4'-hydroxy-3'-methoxy-5'-(methylene thioethyl phenyl) phenyl) acrylamide.
- 20 20. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 12 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(4'-hydroxy-3'-methoxy-5'-(methylene thiopropyl phenyl) phenyl) acrylamide.
- 25 21. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 12 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-(methylene thioethyl phenyl) phenyl) acrylamide.

22. A pharmaceutical composition in accordance with claim 12 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-(methylene thiopropyl phenyl) phenyl) acrylamide.

- 5 23. A method for treating a neoplastic disorder in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein

R_1 is H or C1 to C3 alkyl;

R_2 is aryl or $-(CH_2)_n$ - aryl and n is 1 to 4;

R_3 is H or CH_3 ; and

R_4 is substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, pyridyl, thiophene, furan, indole, pyrrole, thiazole or imidazole.

24. A method in accordance with claim 23 comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula I wherein

R_1 is H, methyl or ethyl;

R_2 is phenyl, benzyl, $-(CH_2)_2$ -phenyl, $-(CH_2)_3$ -phenyl or 2-thiobenzothiazole;

R_3 is H; and

R_4 is phenyl.

25. A method in accordance with claim 23 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(4'-hydroxy-3'-methoxy-5'-methylene thiobenzyl phenyl) acrylamide.
- 5 26. A method in accordance with claim 23 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3'-ethoxy-4'-hydroxy-5'-methylene thiophenyl phenyl) acrylamide.
- 10 27. A method in accordance with claim 23 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-methylene (2'-thiobenzothiazole) phenyl) acrylamide.
- 15 28. A method in accordance with claim 23 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-methylene thiobenzyl phenyl) acrylamide.
29. A method in accordance with claim 23 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-methylene thiophenyl phenyl) acrylamide.
- 20 30. A method in accordance with claim 23 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(4'-hydroxy-3'-methoxy-5'-(methylene thioethyl phenyl) phenyl) acrylamide.
- 25 31. A method in accordance with claim 23 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(4'-hydroxy-3'-methoxy-5'-(methylene thiopropyl phenyl) phenyl) acrylamide.
- 30 32. A method in accordance with claim 23 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-(methylene thioethyl phenyl) phenyl) acrylamide.

33. A method in accordance with claim 23 wherein the compound is N-benzyl-2-cyano-3-(3',4'-dihydroxy-5'-(methylene thiopropyl phenyl) phenyl) acrylamide.

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gub 34. A method in accordance with any one of claims 23 to 33 wherein the neoplastic disorder is a lymphoma, a leukemia or a metastatic carcinoma.

10 35. A method in accordance with any one of claims 23 to 33 wherein the neoplastic disorder is Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

15 36. A method for treating a cell proliferative disorder in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 11.

37. A method in accordance with claim 36 wherein the cell proliferative disorder is selected from the group consisting of an inflammatory disorder, an allergic disorder, an autoimmune disease or graft rejection.